



# Board of Trustees

**Board of Trustees  
Educational Programs Committee  
June 16, 2021  
Virtual Meeting  
MINUTES**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Alex Martins, chair of the Educational Programs Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Committee members present were Trustees Meg Hall, Joseph Harrington, and Caryl McAlpin. Board of Trustees Chair Beverly Seay and Trustees Tiffany Altizer, Jeff Condello, Joseph Conte, John Miklos, and Michael Okaty also attended.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

The Educational Programs Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes of April 14, 2021.

## **REPORTS**

### **Provost Update**

In his provost update, Interim Provost Michael Johnson welcomed two new trustees to the Educational Programs Committee, Trustees Danny Gaekwad and Meg Hall.

Johnson provided details on other topics, including:

### **Campus Operations – Summer and Fall Plans**

With the rapid expansion of vaccine access, the UCF campus will move toward more normal campus operations. The pandemic impact is reduced but with lingering impacts. Half of UCF's student body this fall will be new to the on-campus experience, which is unprecedented. This includes sophomores and transfer students. Summer A course schedules were remote primarily because they were finalized before vaccines were widely available. Summer B, the final summer session, begins June 28 with additional on-campus sections. The fall semester will look like a regular pre-pandemic class schedule.

Returning to normal operations includes the return to campus of faculty and staff who are still working remotely. Some remote work will continue where it makes sense in accordance with university policy.

### **Student Performance – Student Outcomes**

Interim Provost Johnson compared measures of student success for spring 2019 with spring 2020 and 2021. He reminded the committee that spring 2020 outcomes experienced a unique boost resulting from UCF's decision at the onset of the pandemic to allow students to select Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading and offered a later withdrawal deadline. These temporary changes helped students pass courses and boosted average GPAs. These changes did not continue into the 2020-21 academic year. Student outcomes for spring 2021 were about the same as for the pre-pandemic spring 2019 semester.

Johnson said student credit hours grew 3.3 percent this spring over spring 2020. This year's summer enrollment is similar to last summer. Enrollment for this fall is currently down nearly 4 percent over the same time the previous year.

## Budget

UCF did not suffer substantial cuts in state funding as previously anticipated. Potential state cuts had prevented UCF from making investments from a strategic recurring investment fund the president had created in 2020 by pulling 3 percent from colleges and 6 percent from administrative areas. UCF is now able to move ahead in making investments from the fund. A request for proposals will go out soon to invest in strategic areas selected through a competitive process.

The federal COVID relief funding has been very beneficial. UCF received three rounds of funding, with half going to student aid. Efforts continue in identifying the most effective ways for applying the remaining funds.

## State Legislation Highlights

Johnson said several new laws are important to Florida's state universities. Most become effective July 1, 2021 or at the start of the fall semester. UCF has teams working to ensure compliance with all new laws, which include:

- Limits to cultural agreements and grants or gifts from a foreign country of concern; UCF will be reviewing 18 existing academic agreements and is also checking to ensure no issues exist with research grants.
- There are new requirements for screening foreign applicants for research-related positions, which includes students. The legislation is complicated and will be a challenge for all SUS institutions, primarily because affected applicants will need to be screened before interviews, rather than only screening people intended for hire. A task force is working on how UCF can best navigate the new law.
- A new intellectual freedom and diversity viewpoint bill allows students to record class lectures for their own use or in connection with a complaint about the teaching. Publishing the lecture without consent carries a stiff financial penalty for violators. The legislation also requires an annual survey for faculty, staff, and students on whether they feel free to express themselves on campus.

## College of Business Administration Update

Johnson gave a brief update on public comments on instruction presented to the UCF Board of Trustees at its meeting on April 22, 2021.

After taking a close look at the College of Business Administration curriculum and teaching, the provost determined the college is doing an admirable job. Johnson said this is not to suggest the college is perfect, or that modifications are finished. The curriculum in all degree programs and how we teach them will change as a result of continuous improvement and as employer needs change.

## Academic Spotlight

Johnson concluded his update with notable university achievements:

- The Cybersecurity team won its fourth national championship.
- The Computer Programming Team finished first in North America and 10<sup>th</sup> worldwide, qualifying for the finals of the 2021 Computing Machinery's International College Programming Contest to be held at UCF this summer.
- David Hagan has been appointed as the new dean of the College of Optics and Photonics.
- Dean searches continue for the College of Sciences and the University Libraries.
- Jeff Moore was reappointed to another five-year term as dean of the College of Arts and Humanities.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Tenure with Hire (EPC-1)

Interim Provost Johnson requested tenure with hire for two faculty members: Dr. Mona Shattell, who will serve as chair of the Department of Nursing Systems; and Dr. Mercedeh Khajavikhan, College of Optics and Photonics.

Trustee Harrington motioned to approve, and Trustee McAlpin seconded.

The committee unanimously approved Tenure with Hire.

Conferral of Degrees (EPC-2)

Johnson said UCF expects to award approximately 4,016 degrees this spring, including baccalaureate, master's, specialist, and doctoral degrees. Graduates have two options for graduation; the Grad Walk in Addition Financial Arena, August 4-6, or a traditional ceremony in the arena on August 7.

Trustee Harrington motioned to approve, and Trustee McAlpin seconded.

The committee unanimously approved the Conferral of Degrees.

New Degree Program Proposal – Masters in FinTech (EPC-3)

Interim Provost Johnson proposed the development of a new master's degree program in Financial Technology (FinTech). This program is the first master's degree in FinTech in Florida, and one of the first in the country. It is planned to begin in fall 2022.

Trustee McAlpin motioned to approve, and Trustee Harrington seconded.

The committee unanimously approved the New Degree Program Proposal – Masters in FinTech.

Amendment to University Regulation, UCF 2.003, Admissions of Graduate Students (INFO-1)

Presented by Interim Provost Johnson, this amendment would provide temporary flexibility on admissions processes during the last admission cycle in response to some of the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

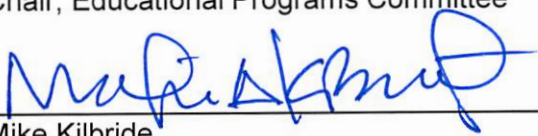
This information item was considered for approval on the Governance Committee agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Martins adjourned the Educational Programs Committee meeting of June 16, 2021, at 9:54 a.m.

Reviewed by:   
Alex Martins/  
Chair, Educational Programs Committee

09/23/2021  
Date

Submitted by:   
Mike Kilbride  
Associate Corporate Secretary

9/27/2021  
Date